

A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



One in Christ
May 16, 2021



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page, our Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel.



* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Bind Us Together, Lord”

WOV 748

Refrain



Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that



can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,



bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.



1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam-'ly of God. You are the prom-ise di - vine.

Refrain



There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing:
You are God's cho-sen de - sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... Loving God, The only law you demand is the law of love. By your grace, show us the path we are to follow, to spread your message of mercy and live lives of discipleship, after your son Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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• CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Scripture: ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:26-29)

Theme: God’s Unconditional Love

Items Needed: New pencils for every child

(Pick one child) Can you stand on one foot? I wonder how long you can stand on that one foot without switching to the other... I want you to just stand right there on that foot until the end of this Children’s sermon. If you make it all the way to the end, I’ll give you this brand new pencil. Can you do that? OK, here we go...

So, today our story from the Bible comes from this really long letter a man named Paul wrote to the Church he started in a city called Galatia. Paul had told the Galatian people about how much God loved them and about God’s unconditional love. Do you know what unconditional love is? That’s where God loves you just because God is love. Not because you are such a good little boy or girl. Not because you picked up all your toys and put them away. Not because you helped a friend at school or shared your candy with them. Not even because you said your prayers before meals and before you go to sleep. God just loves you no matter what. Because God loves you God wants you to be with him all the time from now until forever. That’s why God sent Jesus to be our savior and to let us all know about God’s love that comes with no strings attached...

How are you doing over there standing on one leg? Did you make it this entire time? Ok, here’s your pencil... Now I gave you that pencil because you were able to do something I asked you to do. Is that conditional or unconditional? That’s right there was a condition attached. You had to stand on one leg in order to get the pencil. God’s love doesn’t work like that. If God’s love were this pencil God would give everyone a pencil and nobody has to stand on one leg to earn it.

So, that’s exactly what I’m going to do this morning. Everyone gets a pencil even if you can’t stand on one leg...

Let’s pray... Dear God, we thank you for your unconditional love for everyone. Help us to learn to accept your love and share it with everyone we know. Help us to never attach strings to the love you give to us so freely. Amen...

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Galatians, Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! ²The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? ⁴Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. ⁵Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

⁶Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” ⁷so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. ⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” ⁹For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. ²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ (*Spoken*)

- **SERMON**

Pastor Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, amen.

Have any of you heard of Wade Miley? He's no relation to Miley Cyrus, the pop star... He's the pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds who threw a no hitter on Friday, May 7th, just a little over a week ago. For those of you who might not be baseball fans, that means Wade pitched the entire nine innings and the Cleveland Indians didn't get a single hit. It wasn't a perfect game per se though. Wade did walk one batter, so the Indians did have one player get on base, but that was it. Miley's value to his Baseball team increased because of the excellent work he did in just that one game. Professional baseball isn't the only place where a person's judged based on the work they do.

Here's just a few examples of what I'm talking about. First, school's almost out for the summer. Once a quarter or semester the teachers all send out these little things called report cards. Back when I went to school, these were actual cards that were used. The same report card was returned to the school with a parent or guardian's signature and reused for the entire year. On the report card every teacher grades the performance of the student. The quantity and quality of your work determines what grade you receive. You earn your grades... Most of those

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

who are employed go through periodical performance reviews. The focus is on what you have accomplished and how hard you have worked. Back in my Air Force days, officers were not just graded according to the work we did as individuals, we were compared by our commanders to all the other officers in the wing. The Wing Commander would indicate if this officer was the number one Captain in the Wing or even in the top 10 or 20 percent. These rankings were used by promotion boards to determine which officers get promoted to the next higher grade or rank. It makes for a very competitive environment.

For several weeks now our Scripture readings have seemed to either directly or indirectly raise this issue of Works Righteousness versus Faith or Belief in Jesus Christ as to which system has the power to save us or to make us justified in the eyes of God. It seems as if we're surrounded on every side by the notion that work or even perfect work, without mistakes or errors is what grants success.

In the arena of Personnel in the Air Force when someone is getting ready to separate from the military they receive a Defense Department form called a DD 214. This form summarizes the person's entire military service. This form includes the date the person entered the military and the dates of every overseas assignment, as well as the date of separation. It also includes any special training you completed, and every medal or other military honor awarded to the person.

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Since this form also includes the characterization of the member's service as being honorable, general, or other than honorable, this form is very important. It's so important that it must be produced error free. That way when a future potential employer sees an honorable discharge or training in a certain skill, they can be assured the information is true and accurate. Now, back when I first became a Personnel Officer there were no computers on every desk. The personnel specialists had to type them out on IBM Selectric Typewriters. If there was a single typo, the clerk had to throw away the form and start over. There couldn't be a single mistake and no white out... Also, when I got to my first base and was appointed as the officer in charge of the Separations and Retirements Work center the Air Force was also in the midst of a large drawdown, meaning more and more people were exiting the service. I'll never forget the lines of people who were on their last day of their enlistment and every clerk in the office was frantically trying to crank out these perfectly typed out forms before they person's tour of duty expired. They were under so much pressure... Thankfully, personal computers became available before too long and the forms could be filled out well in advance, reviewed by the separating member, corrected in the computer and then a perfect copy printed so the member wasn't spending their last day on active duty sitting in the personnel office waiting for their DD Form 214...

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Perfection in our work is a good goal and certain jobs require perfection. For example, I certainly want the people who control our nations nuclear weapons to always be perfect in their performance, but in general, life is much more like the example I started out with, the game of baseball. I mean, a good hitter only gets a hit about once out of every three times they come up to bat. A really good player might get on base once or twice in the entire game... While every starting pitcher dreams of throwing that perfect game, it's only happened 17 times in the entire history of the Reds... Perfection in any career or vocation is pretty rare...

Even though our society has progressed quite a lot since the ancient times, our modern culture isn't all that much different from what we read about the Roman culture in Biblical times. Roman society was a very class ordered society. Classes were segregated by power, wealth, occupation, and whether people were slave or free. At the top were the ruling class and landowners. They were followed by the merchants who were followed by the common people. At the bottom of the heap were the slaves. People were judged by their power, their wealth and their work. The United States is very similar. We still have classes. It is false to say we are classless. It is somewhat easier to cross classes—if we work hard enough. None of us consider ourselves in the class of the Kennedy's or the Trumps. Nor do we classify ourselves with the homeless or gang members. Much

of what other people judge us by and how we judge ourselves is based on our work and the success that our work brings us.

In the scripture for today, Paul is furious at the Galatians because despite hearing the Gospel Good News of Jesus Christ directly from Paul, they have been very easily persuaded by the “Circumcision Party” to adopt a theology of works righteousness where all Christians, Jewish as well as gentile converts must be circumcised and then follow all the Jewish Laws and ordinances. Under this system of religion, everyone is judged according to their works of the law and only those who reach a certain level of perfection are admitted into the presence of God. It’s easy to see how they could be so easily persuaded. It’s easy to see how we too fall into the works righteousness trap. We’re surrounded by works righteousness all around us. From School report cards to job performance reviews, to our batting averages in simple games like Dartball, we’re constantly being judged and graded based on our performance.

Because so much of our lives consist of being judged based on our works, isn’t it comforting to know that’s not the criteria God uses to judge you? I mean even if all we have to do is believe in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, I still doubt that my belief or even my faith is strong enough to get me through the door of those pearly gates... When I look around and see the extreme poverty in our

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world while others have billions, I wonder where is God in all of that... When I see injustice in our streets going unchecked and innocent people suffering, I have moments where I doubt and wonder what God is up to. I know my faith isn't strong enough to carry me through this race we call the human race and land me safely on the other side. Works righteousness, when it comes to eternal salvation should terrify every single one of you. It does me...

That's why I don't rely on my works, even my faith. The faith I rely on is the faith of Jesus Christ. It is His faith that saves you and me from the world, from the law, and from the devil. Our smaller than a mustard seed size faith, could never overcome any one of these obstacles, let alone all of them... Jesus was the perfect lamb who was sacrificed to free us from the demands of the law as well as from the consequences of our sinful nature. It's not my righteousness on which I stand, but the righteousness of one Jesus Christ who completed this life perfectly. There were no typos and no white out. In the end, when the DD Form 214 of our lives is completed, it wont be our achievements written below our name rank and serial number, but the singular accomplishment of our Savior, Jesus Christ who loved you enough to perfectly complete every task necessary for your salvation and mine.

May the righteousness of Jesus Christ wash over you today and once again remind you that you belong to Christ and we are all one in his holy and precious body of Christ, living in the power of his righteousness and by his righteousness we are justified, saved, and set loose on the world to tell of this great and wonderful news. Now let's not be foolish Galatians, let's always remember from where our salvation comes—not through our work, but through the faithfulness and righteousness of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

- **SPECIAL MUSIC “Amazing Grace; Holy, Holy, Holy” Roxanne Groff**

*** NICENE CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles’ Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need...

A brief silence.

L: By grace alone have you delivered us, so let our proclamation be one of freedom and not of restriction. May the witness of our lives show forth your love and not our own preoccupation with being good enough for your love. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Empower those who write and enforce laws, that your love and mercy might rule their hearts and inspire them to protect and defend all people so everyone can live in peace and enjoy equal protection. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: There is no division between us and them, insider and outsider, human and creature in your kingdom, O God. Unite us all under your law of love and may it be our guiding principle as we carve out relationships and serve you by serving our neighbors. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Send your Spirit's comfort to those who have suffered from hate crimes and other extreme forms of discrimination. Heal the divisions we've created over race, religious differences, and anything that divides and separates us from your love. We thank and praise you for giving wisdom to scientists and medical professionals who have so quickly delivered three different vaccines to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Comfort those who have been afflicted with this disease and lead us now back to our new normal in the post pandemic era. Tend all those in need, especially... .. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For all your saints in light we give you thanks and pray that you would count us among them when you bring in your final kingdom. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Incline your ear to our prayers and fill us with power to begin living out our faith, by the power of your Son our savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is an offering basket located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day. There is no right way to please you through our offerings and actions, O God—only our open, thankful hearts freely given to you. Accept them and these gifts, and bless your servants in our journey of faith as your messengers of love.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the “tie that Binds us together”, let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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* **SENDING HYMN**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Until the next time we gather together as God’s people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ’s Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

* **POSTLUDE**

“Down by the Riverside”

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Peggy Didier
Greeter	Kathy Kathman
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Maintain good posture while standing and sitting

MIND: Drive a new route home

SPIRIT: Read a joke book



Scripture readings for next Sunday, May 23rd
Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7 [5:16-26]



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

This Week @ Trinity – May 16 thru May 23, 2021

Sun, May 16

10:30 am Worship Service

Tues, May 18 ***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***

Wed, May 19

6:00 pm Finance Team Meeting

7:00 pm Trinity Council Meeting

Fri, May 21

3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, May 23 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

The FISH Choice Food Pantry would like to open the Pantry once a month on a Saturday morning from 10 to 11 am, however, they will need at least 5-7 servants to commit to this before doing so. If you would be interested in serving in this capacity on the 3rd Saturday each month, please contact Kristy Cutarelli at kristy@fishofdarke.org and copy Pastor Mel at pastor@pitsburgtlc.org as a courtesy.

Trinity Contact Info

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